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106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4016

To direct the Medicare Payment Advisory Committee to conduct a study on reimbursement rates for physicians under the medicare program for diagnosis, treatment, and management of Alzheimer's disease.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 16, 2000

Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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A BILL

To direct the Medicare Payment Advisory Committee to conduct a study on reimbursement rates for physicians under the medicare program for diagnosis, treatment, and management of Alzheimer's disease.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. MEDPAC STUDY ON MEDICARE PHYSICIAN REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE.

(a) STUDY.—The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, established under section 1805 of the Social Se-

1 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395b–6), shall conduct a study of
2 reimbursement rates under the medicare program (under
3 title XVIII of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.)) to physi-
4 cians for Alzheimer services, including a determination of
5 the adequacy of such reimbursement rates. The study
6 shall include the following analyses:

7 (1) COMPREHENSIVE CLINICAL ASSESS-
8 MENTS.—An analysis of whether payment policy
9 under the medicare program for Alzheimer services
10 encourages or discourages physicians to conduct
11 comprehensive clinical assessments for medicare
12 beneficiaries who exhibit symptoms of possible de-
13 mentia.

14 (2) CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES.—An
15 analysis of whether payment policy under the medi-
16 care program encourages or discourages physicians
17 to provide diagnostic and management services for
18 Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia as speci-
19 fied in generally accepted clinical practice guidelines
20 and protocols.

21 (3) ONGOING PHYSICIAN CONSULTATION.—An
22 analysis of whether payment policy under the medi-
23 care program for Alzheimer services encourages or
24 discourages ongoing physician consultation with the

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medicare beneficiary's caregivers, as specified in generally accepted diagnosis and practice guidelines.

(4) CAREER CHOICE.—An analysis of whether payment rates under the medicare program for physicians encourages or discourages physicians from choosing a career with a speciality in the treatment and management of Alzheimer's disease and related dementia.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term "Alzheimer services" means the evaluation, diagnosis, and management of a medicare beneficiary with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia, including ongoing consultation between the physician and caregivers of the beneficiary, consistent with generally accepted diagnosis and practice guidelines.

(2) The term "medicare beneficiary" means an individual entitled to benefits under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission shall submit to Congress a report on the results of the study conducted under this section, together with any recommendations for legislation that the Com-

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1 mission determines to be appropriate as a result of such
2 study.

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